

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 14 to 20, 25, and 26 have been canceled. Claims 21 and 27 have been amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the at least one further component includes~~ A method for starting a gas generation system for generating a hydrogen-containing gas for operating a fuel cell, wherein the system includes at least one converting device configured to convert starting substances into the hydrogen-containing gas, at least one conditioning device configured to condition at least some of the starting substances, at least one removal device configured to remove undesirable gas constituents from the hydrogen-containing gas, and a starting burner, the method comprising:

in a first step, burning at least one fuel in the starting burner so as to form hot exhaust gases, heating the conditioning device using the hot exhaust gases, using a residual heat from the hot exhaust gases to heat at least one further component, and electrically heating the at least one converting device;

in a second step, adding starting substances at an initial quantitative ratio with respect to one another to respective components of the devices after a starting temperature has been reached; and

in a third step, continuously changing the quantitative ratio from the initial quantitative ratio toward an operational quantitative ratio;

wherein the at least one further component includes a hydrogen separation module including at least one membrane selectively permeable to hydrogen and a heat exchanger of a cooling circuit.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the residual heat is used to heat the hydrogen separation module first and then the cooling circuit.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the cooling circuit

heats the fuel cell.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 21, wherein the cooling circuit heats a selective oxidation stage.

Claims 25 (cancelled).

Claim 26 (cancelled).

Claim 27 (currently amended): ~~The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising,~~ A method for starting a gas generation system for generating a hydrogen-containing gas for operating a fuel cell, wherein the system includes at least one converting device configured to convert starting substances into the hydrogen-containing gas, at least one conditioning device configured to condition at least some of the starting substances, at least one removal device configured to remove undesirable gas constituents from the hydrogen-containing gas, and a starting burner, the method comprising:

_____ in a first step, burning at least one fuel in the starting burner so as to form hot exhaust gases, heating the conditioning device using the hot exhaust gases, using a residual heat from the hot exhaust gases to heat at least one further component, and electrically heating the at least one converting device;

_____ in a second step, during an initial stage of the second step, passing at least some of a gas generated in the at least one converting device through a bypass around at least one of the fuel cell and the at least one removal device, and feeding the gas directly to a catalytic burner, and adding starting substances at an initial quantitative ratio with respect to one another to respective components of the devices after a starting temperature has been reached; and

_____ in a third step, continuously changing the quantitative ratio from the initial quantitative ratio toward an operational quantitative ratio.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising delivering energy for operating the conditioning device from the catalytic burner.